

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An electronic camera comprising:

a plurality of detectors which are provided corresponding to a position of a hand holding the camera during an image pickup ~~respectively at different positions,~~ each of which detectors being adapted to detect contact or approach of a hand to make an image pickup operation;

a mode setup unit which sets up a stand-by mode in which an image pickup device can commence an image pickup operation immediately in response to a release instruction, wherein the stand-by mode is set, a preliminary operation for image pickup can be entered even if a shutter release switch is not pressed; and

an image pickup controller which controls the camera to perform a preliminary operation for image pickup if both the stand-by mode is set by the mode setup unit all of the plurality of detectors detect the contact or approach of a hand, wherein the preliminary operation can commence even if a shutter release switch is not pressed.

Claim 2 (previously presented): A camera according to claim 1, further comprising mode holding means using a non-volatile memory, which holds a setup state of the stand-by mode set by the mode setup unit even during a power-off period.

Claim 3 (previously presented): A camera according to claim 1, further comprising a mode release unit which releases the stand-by mode when the stand-by mode is set by

4 the mode setup unit and a period in which at least one of  
5 the plurality of detectors does not detect the contact or  
6 approach of a hand reaches a predetermined time.

1 Claim 4 (previously presented): A camera according to claim  
2 1, further comprising operation controller which renders  
3 only a part of the plurality of detectors operational, when  
4 the stand-by mode is set by the mode setup unit and a  
5 period in which at least one of the plurality of detectors  
6 does not detect the contact or approach of a hand reaches a  
7 predetermined time.

1 Claim 5 (previously presented): A camera according to  
2 claim 1, wherein the plurality of detectors are provided at  
3 least at a grip part and proximal to a release button part  
4 of a camera body.

1 Claim 6 (original): A camera according to claim 1, wherein  
2 the preliminary operation includes at least automatic  
3 exposure, automatic focus adjustment, and automatic white  
4 balance adjustment.

1 Claim 7 (currently amended): An electronic camera  
2 comprising:  
3 a detector which is provided near a release button and  
4 adapted to detect an approach of a hand to the release  
5 button to make an image pickup operation;  
6 a main power switch which switches on and off a power  
7 source of the camera; and  
8 an image pickup controller which executes a  
9 preliminary operation for image pickup so that an image  
10 pickup operation can occur immediately in response to a

11 release instruction, if both the power switch is set on and  
12 the detector detects the approach of a hand, wherein the  
13 preliminary operation for image pickup can commence even if  
14 a shutter release switch is not pressed.

1 Claim 8 (previously presented): A camera according to  
2 claim 1, wherein the preliminary operation includes at  
3 least electric conducting to an image pickup device.

1 Claim 9 (currently amended): An electronic camera  
2 comprising:

3 a plurality of detectors which are provided  
4 corresponding to a position of a hand holding the camera  
5 during an image pickup ~~respectively at different positions,~~  
6 each of which detectors being adapted to detect contact or  
7 approach of a hand;

8 a mode setup unit which sets up a stand-by mode in  
9 which an image pickup device can commence an image pickup  
10 operation immediately in response to a release instruction,  
11 wherein the stand-by mode is set, a preliminary operation  
12 for image pickup can be entered even if a shutter release  
13 switch is not pressed; and

14 an image pickup controller which executes a  
15 preliminary operation for image pickup if both the stand-by  
16 mode is set by the mode setup unit, and at least one of the  
17 plurality of detectors detects the contact or approach of a  
18 hand, wherein the preliminary operation can commence even  
19 if a shutter release switch is not pressed.

1 Claim 10 (currently amended): A method for controlling an  
2 electronic camera, comprising:

3 detecting contact or approach of a hand to a camera  
4 body, by each of a plurality of detectors which are  
5 provided corresponding to a position of a hand holding the  
6 ~~respectively at different positions on the electronic~~  
7 camera during an image pickup;

8 bringing an image pickup system including at least an  
9 image pickup device into a stand-by state in which the  
10 image pickup system can commence an image pickup operation  
11 immediately in response to a release instruction, wherein  
12 if the stand-by state mode is set, a preliminary operation  
13 for image pickup can be entered even if a shutter release  
14 switch is not pressed; and

15 executing a preliminary operation for image pickup if  
16 both, and all the plurality of detectors detect the contact  
17 or approach of a hand, wherein the preliminary operation  
18 can commence even if a shutter release switch is not  
19 pressed.

1 Claim 11 (canceled)

1 Claim 12 (previously presented): A method according to  
2 claim 11, wherein when detecting, if the image pickup  
3 system is in the stand-by state and a part of the plurality  
4 of detectors detects the contact or approach of a hand to  
5 make an image pickup operation, another part of the  
6 plurality of detectors that was previously non-operational,  
7 starts a detection operation.

1 Claim 13 (previously presented): A method according to  
2 claim 10, wherein the plurality of detectors are provided  
3 at least at a grip part and a release button part of a  
4 camera body.

1 Claim 14 (previously presented): A method according to  
2 claim 10, further comprising writing a setup of the image  
3 pickup system in the stand-by state into a non-volatile  
4 memory if an input for turning off a power source is given.

1 Claim 15 (previously presented): A method according to  
2 claim 10, further comprising releasing the stand-by state  
3 when the stand-by state is set and a period in which at  
4 least one of the plurality of detectors does not detect the  
5 contact or approach of a hand reaches a predetermined time.

1 Claim 16 (original): A method according to claim 10,  
2 wherein the preliminary operation includes at least  
3 automatic exposure, automatic focus adjustment, and  
4 automatic white balance adjustment.

1 Claim 17 (original): A method according to claim 10,  
2 wherein the preliminary operation includes at least  
3 electric conducting to the image pickup device.

1 Claim 18 (currently amended): A method for controlling an  
2 electronic camera, comprising:  
3       detecting an approach of a hand to a release button by  
4 a detector provided near the release button;  
5       switching on and off a main power source of the  
6 camera; and  
7       executing a preliminary operation for image pickup so  
8 that an image pickup operation can occur immediately in  
9 response to a release instruction, if both the power switch  
10 is set on and the detector detects the approach of a hand  
11 wherein a preliminary operation for image pickup can

12 commence even if a shutter ~~to the~~ release switch is not  
13 pressed button.

1 Claim 19 (original): A method according to claim 18,  
2 wherein the preliminary operation includes at least  
3 electric conducting to an image pickup device.

1 Claim 20 (currently amended): A method for controlling an  
2 electronic camera, comprising:  
3 detecting contact or approach of a hand to a camera  
4 body using each of a plurality of detectors which are  
5 provided corresponding to a position of a hand holding the  
6 camera during image pickup ~~respectively at different~~  
7 positions on the electronic camera;  
8 bringing an image pickup system including at least an  
9 image pickup device into a stand-by state in which the  
10 image pickup system can commence an image pickup operation  
11 immediately in response to a release instruction, wherein  
12 if the stand-by mode is set, a preliminary operation for  
13 image pickup ~~state~~ can be entered even if a shutter release  
14 switch is not pressed; and  
15 executing a preliminary operation for image pickup if  
16 both at least one of the plurality of detectors detects the  
17 contact or approach of a hand, wherein the preliminary  
18 operation can commence even if a shutter release switch is  
19 not pressed.

1 Claim 21 (previously presented): The camera of claim 1  
2 wherein at least one of the detectors is adapted to detect  
3 an approach of a hand.

1 Claim 22 (previously presented): The camera of claim 9  
2 wherein at least one of the detectors is adapted to detect  
3 an approach of a hand.

1 Claim 23 (previously presented): The method of claim 10  
2 wherein the act of detecting detects an approach of a hand.

1 Claim 24 (previously presented): The method of claim 20  
2 wherein the act of detecting detects an approach of a hand.

1 Claim 25 (previously presented): The camera of claim 1  
2 wherein at least one of the detectors is a pyroelectric  
3 sensor.

1 Claim 26 (previously presented): The camera of claim 1  
2 wherein at least one of the detectors is a photosensor.

1 Claims 27 and 28 (canceled)

1 Claim 29 (previously presented): The camera of claim 9  
2 wherein at least one of the detectors is a pyroelectric  
3 sensor.

1 Claim 30 (previously presented): The camera of claim 9  
2 wherein at least one of the detectors is a photosensor.

1 Claim 31 (currently amended): An electronic camera  
2 comprising:  
3 a plurality of detectors which are provided  
4 respectively at different positions, each of which  
5 detectors being adapted to detect contact or approach of a  
6 hand to make an image pickup operation;

7        a mode setup unit which sets up a stand-by mode in  
8        which an image pickup device can commence an image pickup  
9        operation immediately in response to a release instruction,  
10       wherein the stand-by mode can be entered even if a shutter  
11       release switch is not pressed; and  
12       an image pickup controller which controls the camera  
13       to perform a preliminary operation for image pickup if both  
14       the stand-by mode is set by the mode setup unit all of the  
15       plurality of detectors detect the contact or approach of a  
16       hand,  
17       ~~The camera of claim 1~~ wherein, initially, a first one of  
18       the detectors is rendered operational while a second one of  
19       the detectors is rendered non-operational until a contact  
20       or approach of a hand is sensed by the first one of the  
21       detectors, at which time the second one of the detectors is  
22       rendered operational.

1       Claim 32 (canceled)

1       Claim 33 (currently amended): An electronic camera  
2       comprising:  
3       a plurality of detectors which are provided  
4       respectively at different positions, each of which  
5       detectors being adapted to detect contact or approach of a  
6       hand;  
7       a mode setup unit which sets up a stand-by mode in  
8       which an image pickup device can commence an image pickup  
9       operation immediately in response to a release instruction,  
10       wherein the stand-by mode can be entered even if a shutter  
11       release switch is not pressed; and  
12       an image pickup controller which executes a  
13       preliminary operation for image pickup if both the stand-by



14 mode is set by the mode setup unit, and at least one of the  
15 plurality of detectors detects the contact or approach of a  
16 hand,

17 ~~The camera of claim 9~~ wherein, initially, a first one of  
18 the detectors is rendered operational while a second one of  
19 the detectors is rendered non-operational until a contact  
20 or approach of a hand is sensed by the first one of the  
21 detectors, at which time the second one of the detectors is  
22 rendered operational.